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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS NAMES NEW DEP COMMISSIONER

Compliance, enforcement, and innovation cited as top goals

Environmental Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder announced today that environmental expert Robert W. Golledge Jr. has been named commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Mr. Golledge has extensive experience in environmental management in both the public and private sectors. Currently, Mr. Golledge works as the Massachusetts Director of Environmental Sciences for the national consulting firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

"Bob Golledge is a dedicated environmental professional who has spent the past 17 years as an enthusiastic advocate for the rights of all citizens to enjoy an environment free of pollution," said Secretary Herzfelder. "He is the right person to help us achieve greater environmental protection with streamlined processes."

Mr. Golledge spent 13 years with the DEP, serving as director of the department's Central Regional Office in Worcester, DEP chief of staff, and director of the Division of Wetlands and Waterways.

"The commissioner of DEP plays a vital role in protecting the environmental quality of life for all Massachusetts residents," said Mr. Golledge. "As commissioner, I will focus on targeting our compliance and enforcement efforts toward high risk areas. I also intend to maximize the use of new tools and technologies to ensure our regulatory processes are efficient and effective. I look forward to the challenges ahead."

While at DEP, Mr. Golledge managed the implementation of the highly protective Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, as well as the State Clean Water Act and the Chapter 91 Waterways Program. He also developed the wetlands and waterways training curriculum for Conservation Commissions and environmental consultants and taught Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education courses on water quality and wetlands issues. At the municipal level, he served as an environmental administrator for the City of Lowell and for the Town of Dartmouth.

"We're thrilled that the Secretary has chosen such a strong environmentalist to lead the state's key environmental protection agency," said Vivien Li, Executive Director of the waterfront advocacy group, The Boston Harbor Association.

Mr. Golledge holds B.S. in Natural Resource Management from the University of Maine, Orono and served for two years in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica. He has received Public Service Awards for his environmental work from the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions and the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association. Mr. Golledge resides in Canton with his wife, Susan, and their three children.

"We had the highest respect for Bob when he was with DEP before," said David Begelfer, CEO of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties. "His in-depth knowledge of the issues and the agency will enable him to be an effective leader and reformer during these challenging times."

DEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills, and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

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